

While most have focused on looking at local interference effects for small sites, my concern is for what happens with there are tens of thousands of BPL radio signals in use. The same natural phenomena that allow very low power amateur signals to be used for long distance communications will also cause BPL interference to be heard nationwide. So, as an amateur radio operator on the West Coast, I will be exposed to the effects of all the signals from the eastern United States.

And when this occurs, who do I complain to about the interference? Which one of hundreds of providers will respond to my complaint? Or will they simply “shrug their shoulders” and say “It is somebody else that is causing your problem.” We are already seeing intransigence on the part of BPL providers in eliminating BPL interference in the early pilots. The BPL providers have taken to parsing the requirements and defining the terms of the FCC rules instead of taking effective action.

I propose the following.

1. Require all BPL providers to transmit a beacon carrier signal near the edge of each amateur radio band to identify the provider using voice and cw modulation. The beacons should be assigned a unique frequency and time slot to allow time division multiplexing of the various BPL providers. A complaint based upon the receipt of such beacon by an amateur station more than 50 km away from the centroid of the BPL provider’s coverage area should constitute an actionable complaint.
2. Require all BPL providers to set up monitoring stations within their coverage area to detect signals in the amateur frequency bands. If a threshold (TBD) is exceeded, the BPL provider must take immediate corrective action to assure that no BPL carriers are in that amateur band.